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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY **France**

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DATE DISTR. **23 March 1949**

SUBJECT **Minister of Interior Prepares Attack  
Against Communists and RPF**

NO. OF PAGES **2**

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. Colonel Ponchardier, Paris Regional Chief of the RPF Service d'Ordre, was informed by an RPF agent in the Ministry of the Interior that Jules Moch was preparing to attack Communist centers in France on the night of 21-22 March.\*
2. Moch further planned to accuse the RPF of instigating this action against the Communists and would then officially move to liquidate both Parties.\*\*
3. Ponchardier stated that General de Gaulle was to call a meeting of the RPF at General Headquarters in Paris on 20 March and decide upon the RPF plan of action. Source reported that the political factions within the RPF would doubtless oppose any armed action by the RPF and would decide to forestall the Moch plan of placing the blame of the raids on the RPF by publicizing Moch's intentions.
4. Ponchardier favors "armed resistance" and has suggested turning Moch's planned action to RPF advantage by effecting a "contre coup".
5. Ponchardier instructed the Service d'Ordre, Service d'Ordre Auxiliaire and the Defense Anti-Communiste units to mobilize immediately. In his orders he stressed complete secrecy, requesting that members proceed to rallying points by foot, bicycle or private car and as unobtrusively as possible. Members of these groups were instructed to take orders only from Headquarters of the Service d'Ordre and were warned to beware of Government provocateurs in their ranks.
6. Source stated that the Paris Service d'Ordre Headquarters were gathering arms from individual caches. One truckload of such arms arrived at Headquarters on the afternoon of 20 March.

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[REDACTED] the Ministry of the Interior stated that the current anti-Communist operations being conducted by the Surveillance du Territoire (counter-espionage branch of the Surete Nationale) were essentially a political maneuver

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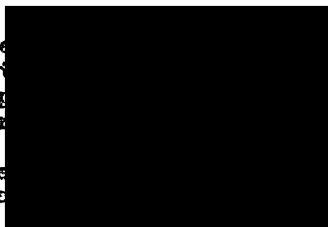
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and were launched on Moch's initiative.



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Moch would probably launch a campaign against the Gaullists in an attempt to convince the French people that a Gaullist rise to power would be as disastrous for France as a Communist-controlled Government.

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